

MEETING OF  
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, June 18, 2014, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr., Secretary	Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer	Peter Martin

Absent: Theodore P. Bobola, Jr., and Robert Emerson

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Chief of Planning and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Kathi Spangler, and Cathy Mesick.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

**I. Current Situation Report:**

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 1,231 farms in preservation districts totaling 168,550 acres, with a total of 796 farms under agricultural easements totaling 115,166 acres at a cost of \$206,993,765. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 34 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,582 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. There are 300 properties eligible for PDR Round 19, totaling 32,641 acres, with an estimated value of \$134,740,000.

Austin Short informed the Board that USDA NRCS received their FY'12 operating money and the five remaining federally funded properties from Round 17 should soon proceed to settlement. NRCS has not yet received their FY'13 operating funds so we cannot proceed with the Round 18 federally funded settlements.

Chairman Garey asked if there was a particular reason why some landowners terminate their district agreements. Michael Parkowski told the Chairman that from his experience many landowners terminate their agreement if they are not selected for easement purchase due to insufficient discounting. However the number of terminations is small in comparison to the number of those who renew. Austin Short added that only a handful of landowners terminate now each year, and sometimes these are owners who recently acquired the property, such as children of the individuals who originally enrolled.

**II. Young Farmers Report**

Mr. Short informed the Board that two Young Farmers settlements will occur this week. The remaining two settlements from Round 4 should occur this summer.

**III. Monitoring Report:**

Milton Melendez informed the Board that there would be no monitoring report for today's meeting as he is still processing the information on the Federal parcels that have been visited.

**IV. District Final Approval:**

1. Jerry C. Dukes Farm District, ID#S-14-03-275. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for final approval the Jerry C. Dukes District, seconded by Allen Messick, Jr. Motion approved.**

**V. Expansion Eligibility and Final Approval (Contingent Sale):**

1. Wilson-French Expansion of the Kent-Del Farms District, ID#K-14-05-257A. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Wilson-French Expansion of**

**the Kent-Del Farms District, seconded by Chip Narvel. Motion approved. Lisa Embert abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.**

2. Harbeson Farm Expansion of the Harbeson District, ID#S-14-05-217B. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Harbeson Farm Expansion of the Harbeson District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **VI. Expansion Eligibility and Final Approval:**

1. Bendelewski North Expansion of the Emil Gallo-Ruth Gall District, ID#K-13-12-050C. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Bendelewski North Expansion of the Emil Gallo-Ruth District, seconded by Chip Narvel. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Prince's Tree Farm Expansion of the Albert D. Warren District, ID#K-14-02-008I. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Prince's Tree Farm Expansion of the Albert D. Warren District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. Bhatti Farms Expansion of the Albert D. Warren District, ID#K-14-03-008J. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Bhatti Farms Expansion of the Albert D. Warren District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

4. William Webb Expansion #1 of the West-Murderkill River District, ID#K-13-10-204A. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the William Webb #1 Expansion of the West-Murderkill River District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

Chairman Garey mentioned that he loved to see these farms over on that side of Route 1 come into the preservation program.

5. William Webb Expansion #2 of the Tuthill District, ID#K-13-10-006C. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the William Webb #2 Expansion of the Tuthill District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

6. William Webb Expansion #3 of the Masten District, ID#K-13-10-001I. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the William Webb Expansion #3 of the Masten District, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

7. William Webb Expansion #4 of the Tuthill District, ID#K-13-10-006D. **"Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the William Webb Expansion #4 of the Tuthill District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

8. Little Hill Farm Expansion of the J.D. Gordy District, ID#S-14-03-221K. **Allen Messick moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Little Hill Farm Expansion of the J.D. Gordy District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

9. Layton Home Farm Expansion of the Old Morgan School District, ID#S-14-03-016P. **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Layton Home Farm Expansion of the Old Morgan School District, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **VII. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:**

The Secretary of Agriculture, Ed Kee, waived the right of veto for the above District and Expansions.

#### **VIII. Public Comments:**

No public comments were received.

**IX. Minutes:**

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the May 21, 2014 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the May minutes, seconded by Allen Messick. Motion unanimously approved.**

**X. Financial Highlights:**

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of May 31, 2014, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of May 31, 2014, \$57,161.62 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$19.66, and license plates income was \$420.00. Expenditures for the month of May totaled \$62,508.20. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept the May financial statement as presented, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

**XI. Executive Session:**

It was indicated by Mr. Michael Parkowski that there was no need for an Executive Session.

**XII. Other Business:**

1. Auditor's Report

Austin Short informed the Board that the auditor would present the FY'12 and FY'13 audit report at the July meeting as it was not approved by the State Auditor's office until late yesterday. The report was distributed to the Board for their review prior to the July meeting. Austin added there were three findings: (1) Quick Books is to be used for all financial transactions (all FSF transactions also have to be shown in Quick Books); (2) an outside accountant must do the final financial statement for the auditors; and (3) Young Farmer loan applications should include a balance sheet and at least one reference to verify the applicant's agricultural experience.

Mr. Short informed the Board that Robin West has retired from the State of Delaware and that her position will be posted as soon as possible.

**XIII. Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on July 16, 2014 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert F. Garey  
Chairman